

## **Lexington Herald-Leader**

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### **KCTCS College faculty gives no confidence vote to regents**

Herald-Leader Staff Report

The faculty at Southeast Community and Technical College voted overwhelmingly to give the system's board of regents a vote of no confidence Friday in light of the regents' move to eliminate tenure for future hires.

Instructors at the three campuses of that branch of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System voted 68-30 with seven abstentions, said Roy Silver, a sociology professor at Southeast's Cumberland campus.

“Those of us who voted in favor of the resolution want to make it clear that in no way was that a reflection of the local administration of the college,” Silver said.

Instead, he said, it was meant to be a public message of displeasure to the regents, who voted last month to end the tenure track for instructors hired after July 1.

The faculty at Southeast, which has campuses in Cumberland, Harlan, Middlesboro, Pineville and Whitesburg, will send a copy of its resolution to the board.

Faculty at some of the other 15 community and technical colleges across the state have expressed interest in issuing no-confidence resolutions of their own.

Richard A. Bean, chairman of the KCTCS board of regents, said this week that the board took such a step to give the system more flexibility in its long-term planning and hiring. He said it in no way erodes the academic freedom of professors or strips due process for not keeping instructors.

Silver and others among the 5,000 instructors across the 67 KCTCS campuses have expressed concern that the quality of teaching will decrease if top-level job candidates go to systems that have tenure.

It is unlikely the board will reverse its 10-4 vote taken last month, but some faculty might appeal to the legislature to intervene, Silver said.